



# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP  
SPAIN 2022

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear All,

Welcome to the inaugural season of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup!

This brand-new event created by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) is not only a gateway to the subsequent FIH Hockey Pro League for the winning team; it is also a top-flight tournament for some of the best teams in the world, ranked just underneath the current Pro League nations. Therefore, expect nothing else than outstanding hockey during the whole tournament!



The coastal city of Valencia is used to welcoming numerous international events from FIH, including, in recent years, FIH Hockey Pro League matches. We're very much looking forward to enjoying the wonderful hospitality of Valencia again!

On behalf of FIH and in my personal name, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the Spanish Hockey Association for organising this event with so much passion and dedication. I'd also like to thank all participating National Associations, athletes, officials, our commercial and broadcast partners, our preferred suppliers, the volunteers, the media and the fans, and I wish the very best of luck to all participating teams!

Whether you will follow the matches via broadcast, on Watch.Hockey, on social media or in the news, I wish you to enjoy all the action from this thrilling first edition of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup!

Yours in Hockey,

**Tayyab Ikram**  
**FIH President**



# ABOUT THE FIH HOCKEY NATIONS CUP

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup is a new annual tournament that involves some of the best hockey playing nations of the world and acts as a pathway to the FIH Hockey Pro League, to which it will introduce a relegation/promotion axis, with the first placed team in the FIH Hockey Nations Cup replacing the bottom placed team in the FIH Hockey Pro League in the subsequent year.

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup features the best eight teams (by world rankings) that are not a part of the FIH Hockey Pro League, in both men's and women's competitions. The eight teams are split into two pools of four teams each, with the top two teams in each pool proceeding to the semi-finals, while the bottom two teams from each pool will play for 5-8 place classification.

The FIH Women's Nations Cup run from 11 to 17 December in Valencia, Spain and follows the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup that run from 28 November to 4 December in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

The FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022 match schedule, including match timings is available [here](#).

For more information on the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup South africa, please visit the website [here](#).

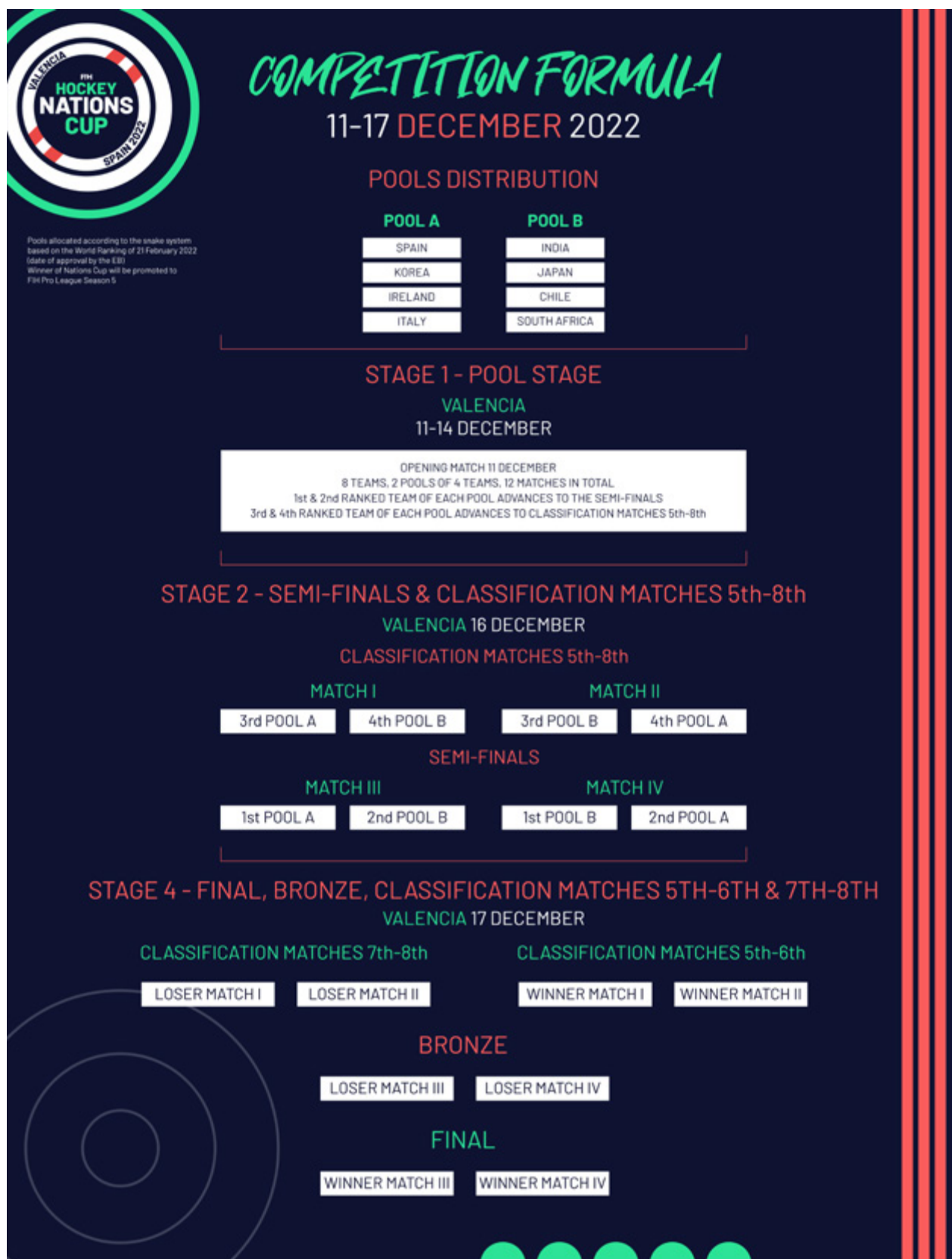
More information about the FIH Hockey Pro League can be found [here](#).



# COMPETITION FORMAT

The following information has been taken from Appendix 8 of 'FIH Top Tier Tournament Regulations'. More information about all FIH competition regulations can be found at the following link:


<http://www.fih.ch/media/13546876/fih-top-tier-tournament-regulations.pdf>





## MATCH SCHEDULE

To see the match schedule, please click [here](#).



**POOLS & MATCH SCHEDULE - WOMEN**  
VALENCIA  
11 - 17 DECEMBER

POOL A
SPAIN
KOREA
IRELAND
ITALY
POOL B
INDIA
JAPAN
CHILE
SOUTH AFRICA

DATE	N°	POOL	TIME CET	MATCH
SUN 11 DEC	1	A	10:45	KOREA vs ITALY
	2	A	13:00	SPAIN vs IRELAND
	3	B	15:15	INDIA vs CHILE
	4	B	17:30	JAPAN vs SOUTH AFRICA
MON 12 DEC	5	A	10:45	IRELAND vs ITALY
	6	A	13:00	KOREA vs SPAIN
	7	B	15:15	JAPAN vs INDIA
	8	B	17:30	CHILE vs SOUTH AFRICA
TUE 13 DEC		REST DAY		REST DAY
WED 14 DEC	9	A	10:45	IRELAND vs KOREA
	10	A	13:00	SPAIN vs ITALY
	11	B	15:15	INDIA vs SOUTH AFRICA
	12	B	17:30	CHILE vs JAPAN
THU 15 DEC		REST DAY		REST DAY
FRI 16 DEC	13	5/8 <sup>1</sup>	09:00	3rd POOL A vs 4th POOL B
	14	5/8 <sup>1</sup>	11:15	3rd POOL B vs 4th POOL A
	15	SF <sup>1</sup>	13:30	1st POOL A vs 2nd POOL B
	16	SF <sup>1</sup>	15:45	1st POOL B vs 2nd POOL A
SAT 17 DEC	17	7/8	09:00	LOSER MATCH 13 vs LOSER MATCH 14
	18	5/6	11:15	WINNER MATCH 13 vs WINNER MATCH 14
	19	3/4	13:30	LOSER MATCH 15 vs LOSER MATCH 16
	20	FINAL	15:45	WINNER MATCH 15 vs WINNER MATCH 16

Notes: Subject to the approval of the FIH any matches may be re-scheduled.

1. The sequence of matches will be confirmed on the completion of the pool matches.

5/8 classification match: winner plays for 5th or 8th place on match 18 while loser plays for 7th or 6th place on match 19.

2. The pools and match sequence as per the FIH Competition Policies and Tournament Regulations are based on the FIH World Rankings on 21 February 2022.



# PROMOTION/ RELEGATION

The aim of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup, which is a new yearly event, is to offer a top-level competition to the best-ranked teams not participating in the FIH Hockey Pro League and give the winning team the chance to be promoted to the FIH Hockey Pro League the next season, precisely.

Therefore, the FIH Hockey Nations Cup marks the start of the promotion-relegation principle for the FIH Hockey Pro League, with the winning team of the first FIH Hockey Nations Cup having the chance to be promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Pro League (provided they meet the necessary requirements for it), replacing the team that finishes in the last place at the end of the FIH Hockey Pro League season 2022-23.



# TEAMS

Below you will find some general information as well as the squad lists for the teams that will compete in each pool at the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022. All squad information correct at time of publication. To see complete and up-to-date squad lists for each team competing in Valencia, please [click here](#).

**POOL A**  
**IRELAND**  
**ITALY**  
**KOREA**  
**SPAIN**



# IRELAND



**Current World Ranking:** 13

The Irish women's team made the world sit up and take notice as they went on a tear at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 going all the way to the finals, where they faced defeat against Netherlands, but still managed to earn their first ever medal (silver) at a Hockey World Cup.

Ireland were unable to replicate their performances in the 2022 edition of the Women's World Cup, when they found themselves in a tough pool with defending champions Netherlands, Germany and Chile, losing all three pool games despite showing a lot of attacking intent in all their games. They went on to defeat South Africa in the 9-16th place play-offs, finishing the event in the 11th position.

Ireland have a strong team led by experienced veterans from back to front, starting with goalkeeping stalwart Ayeisha McFerran who has the experienced duo of Elena Tice and Róisín Upton ahead of her in the defence. Hannah McLoughlin is a young defensive prospect who has burst onto the scene for the Irish team as well.

Ireland's biggest strength still is their attacking trio of Kathryn Mullan, Deirdre Duke and Naomi Carroll. Ireland's greatest successes have come when their attack has clicked and performed at high tempo, and that seems to be their best route to success at the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup.

**One to watch:** Kathryn Mullan

Kathryn Mullan continues to be the heart and soul of the Irish team, captaining the side since 2017. Mullan's build-up play is often crucial in unlocking opposing defences, either through her line breaking passes or her ability to carry the ball from defence on a quick counter attack. If Mullan has a good game, it is near impossible to stop the Irish team from scoring goals, and her performances often galvanise her team and bring the best out of them. Ireland's oppositions will know that they can try to blunt the Irish attack by stopping Mullan, but that is a task easier said than done.

Website [www.hockey.ie](http://www.hockey.ie)

Twitter [Irish Hockey](#)

Instagram [hockey\\_ireland](#)

FIH Nations Cup team page [click here](#)



# ITALY



**Current World Ranking:** 18

**About the team:** Ireland come into the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup on the back of a second-placed finish at the EuroHockey Championship Qualifiers B 2022, missing out on qualification to the top division. The team that beat them to the top division qualification was France, winning their head-to-head match-up 4-1. In the other two games however, Ireland produced impressive hockey winning 9-0 against Turkey and a 19-0 win against Latvia, which was their biggest ever margin for victory in international hockey. Ireland are known for their hell-for-leather hockey style and on their day, are easily capable of out-scoring any opponent.

Ireland are searching for consistency on the international stage, with their performances over the past couple of years littered with impressive wins and disappointing losses. They are a young team, with just two players over the age of 30 in their squad for the FIH Men's Hockey Nations Cup. Youth and aggression can produce dynamic attacking hockey, but they have to be cautious of defensive lapses given the quality of attack of their opponents in the tournament. Captain Sean Murray is one of two players with more than 100 caps on the team and will have to continue playing the catalyst role for both defence and offence in the middle of the field.

**One to watch:** : Lara Oviedo

Lara Oviedo is the most experienced player in the Italian squad, having represented the national team since 2017. She was a member of the Italian squad that finished 5th at the Hockey World League Semi-finals in Brussels, where they defeated Spain, and finished ahead of them. Oviedo scored two crucial goals for Italy, with a leveller against China in the group stage and the winning penalty stroke against Spain in the crossover victory. She is one of Italy's biggest goal threats, and forms a formidable duo with captain Federica Carta, especially in penalty corner situations. As the most experienced player in a squad full of young players, Italy will rely heavily on Oviedo's experience to break open opposing defences, and her track record proves she can deliver on the big stage!

Website [www.federhockey.it](http://www.federhockey.it)

Twitter [FIH\\_Italia](https://twitter.com/FIH_Italia)

Instagram [fih\\_italia](https://www.instagram.com/fih_italia)

FIH Nations Cup team page [click here](#)



# KOREA



**Current World Ranking:** 12

**About the team:** Korea, through the past few decades, have been the most successful women's hockey team from Asia. Their list of accolades include two Olympic silver medals, a bronze medal at the World Cup, a Champions Trophy gold medal, 5 Asian games gold medals and plenty more. With such a rich history, the Korean team goes into most events as one of the favourites, and that will be the case at the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022 as well.

Despite their rich history, the Korean team heading into the Nations Cup will have its work cut out, given the transition phase the team finds itself in. Many of their experienced players have made way for a younger crop of players, who are looking to find their feet in senior international hockey. In fact, only 9 out of the 20 players headed to the Nations Cup, have played more than 10 international games for Korea. Their squad consists of 5 debutants and another 6 players who combine for a total of 33 appearances between them.

Korea's performance at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022 was below their usual standards as they finished in the 13th place, which was their lowest ever finish in the event. Given the transitioning nature of their squad, the senior players will play a crucial role in passing on the knowledge they have gained from their past experiences to the youngsters on the team.

**One to watch:** Jinmin Lee

Korea are traditionally known for their technical style of play that is built on a resolute defence. This style sees a spotlight shine brightly on the defenders and especially the goalkeeper. Jinmin Lee, the current Korea goalkeeper, was one of their standout performers in the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022, where her quick reflexes and movement in the box stood out massively. While Lee's penalty corner defence looked a little shaky, the rest of her game was very well rounded, and given that she is just 15 games into her international career, she has plenty more to offer!

Website [www.koreahockey.co.kr](http://www.koreahockey.co.kr)

Instagram [koreahockey](https://www.instagram.com/koreahockey)  
FIH Nations Cup team page [click here](#)



# SPAIN

**Current World Ranking:** 7

**About the team:** Spain come into the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 as heavy favourites. Not only do they get to play in home conditions, but they are also the highest ranked team to feature in the inaugural edition of the tournament. Additionally, of the 7 teams that are a part of the Nations Cup that also qualified for the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022, Spain achieved the best classification, ending their campaign with a 7th-place finish.

Spain, along with India, were a part of the FIH Hockey Pro League in the 2021-22 season, replacing Australia. Their campaign in their debut season was full of highs as they achieved a brilliant 5th place, ahead of Germany and England. They grew from strength to strength throughout the season, registering impressive wins over Germany, India, Belgium and England.

At the World Cup, Spain, playing at home in Terrassa, made it to the quarterfinals where they lost to the eventual bronze medallists, Australia, in a close encounter. A particular strength for Spain that emerged in the back end of last season's Pro League and continued into the World Cup, was the number of players who stepped up and scored for Spain. Usual suspects like Marta Segu, Xantal Gine and Begona Garcia are known for their ability to score goals, but there were many more who stepped up in attack for Spain including Laura Barrios, Belén Iglesias and Georgina Oliva. With a squad that has a perfect blend of youth and experience, Spain will aim to finish first and win promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League for the 2023-24 season.

**One to watch:** : Alejandra Torres-Quevedo

At just the age of 23, Alejandra Torres-Quevedo has already amassed 63 caps for Spain, while playing in a midfield where they have an abundance of talent. What sets Torres-Quevedo apart is her ability to contribute to both defence and attack with equal effectiveness, allowing her teammates to play to their strengths. In the absence of Georgina Oliva, who has been at the heart of the Spanish midfield for more than a decade, Torres-Quevedo will be tasked with taking over the role of midfield general for Spain in the Nations Cup and dictate the play for them in and out of possession.

Website  
[www.rfeh.es](http://www.rfeh.es)

Twitter  
[rfe\\_hockey](https://twitter.com/rfe_hockey)

Instagram  
[rfe\\_hockey](https://www.instagram.com/rfe_hockey)

FIH Nations Cup team page  
[click here](#)





# TEAMS

## POOL B

CHILE

INDIA

JAPAN

SOUTH AFRICA



# CHILE



**Current World Ranking:** 14

**About the team:** There is scarcely any team in international hockey that has done more to enhance their reputation around the world, than Chile's women's national team. Chile started 2022 as the 19th ranked team in the world, and over the past 11 months have moved up 5 spots with remarkable performances in big tournaments.

Chile's first big performance of the year came in the 2022 Women's Pan American Cup, where they finished runners-up to Argentina, and booked a place in the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain & Netherlands 2022, which was their first ever qualification for the pinnacle hockey tournament. The Chilean team was the toast of the town at the World Cup, with excellent performances throughout, but what captivated the crowd even more was the passion and joy that was on display both on and off the field. After all, who can forget the scenes as Chile played their first game at the World Cup and earned their first win against the reigning silver medallists Ireland.

Chile showed their performance at the World Cup was no fluke as they added yet another feather to their cap by defeating the reigning World Cup silver medallists and current Pro League champions, Argentina, in the finals of the XII South American Games Asunción 2022, and winning the gold medal!

**One to watch :** Losada Krimerman

Denise Losada Krimerman plays a hugely important role for Chile in both attack and defence. Chile's watertight defence is the bedrock of their playing style as they rely on frustrating their opposition's attack and force errors from them on the counter attack. Krimerman is a crucial cog in the defence alongside captain Camila Caram and Fernanda Flores, but she is also Chile's greatest goal threat from penalty corners. Her scoring skills were on full display at the World Cup where she scored her team's first ever goal at a World Cup, and was also on the scoresheet as Chile earned their first win at a World Cup, defeating Ireland 1-0 in their second group stage game.

Website

[www.chilehockey.cl](http://www.chilehockey.cl)

Twitter

[chile\\_hockey](https://twitter.com/chile_hockey)

Instagram

[chile\\_hockey](https://www.instagram.com/chile_hockey)

FIH Nations Cup team page

[click here](#)



# INDIA



**Current World Ranking:** 8

**About the team:** : India come into the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022 as the second highest ranked team, one spot behind Spain in the 8th spot. Like Spain, India are considered big favourites for the Nations Cup, having performed brilliantly in the FIH Hockey Pro League, in the 2021-22 season, where they made their debut in the event, replacing New Zealand.

India finished their debut Pro League campaign in the 3rd spot behind only Argentina and Netherlands, ahead of teams ranked higher than them: Belgium, Spain, Germany and England. With the promising Pro League season behind them, India entered the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup with great expectations, but despite bright displays in most of their matches, India failed to convert chances that fell their way and finished in the 9th position.

They quickly put that disappointment behind them as they headed to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, where their performances started to match the results, as they made it all the way to the semi-finals, before winning their first Commonwealth Games medal in 12 years, winning the Bronze medal matchup against New Zealand.

India is captained by their goalkeeping star Savita Punia, who has been instrumental in her team's rock solid defence that has kept some of the best forwards in the world at bay over the past few years. Going forward India rely on the dynamic pairing of Neha Goyal and Navneet Kaur, who have formed a cerebral connection on the pitch and can play their way through the opponents' defence by playing quick one-twos without ever having to look for the other.

**One to watch:** : Lalremsiami Hmarzote

In a very short period of time, Lalremsiami has proved herself to be an extremely important player for India, playing in the forward line. Her goal scoring instincts are crucial for India, who have in the past struggled to score goals, even while dominating games. Lalremsiami has the traditional speed and dribbling skills associated with Indian greats of the past, but what separates her from many of her peers is her eye for goal and her willingness to take shots from difficult angles. A striker who isn't shy of trying something spectacular is exactly what India often needs to convert their possession and territory into goals.

Website

[www.hockeyindia.org](http://www.hockeyindia.org)

Twitter

[TheHockeyIndia](https://twitter.com/TheHockeyIndia)

Instagram

[hockeyindia](https://www.instagram.com/hockeyindia)

FIH Nations Cup team page

[click here](#)



# JAPAN

**Current World Ranking:** 11

**About the team:** The Japanese women's hockey team has been on the rise over the past two years, with impressive showings in continental tournaments and will be keen to use the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 to prove that the disappointing results in their FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022 campaign were just a blip in their overall growth trajectory.

Japan are the reigning Asia Cup and Asian Champions Trophy gold medallists and they were also the gold medalists when the Asian Games were last held in 2018. They have established themselves as the team to beat in Asia over the past 4 years, but their performance on the international stage has not been in the similar vein, with back to back 11th position finishes at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2022 and the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022.

Japan get a fresh opportunity to prove their supremacy at the Nations Cup and get a chance to play in the FIH Hockey Pro League in the 2023-24 season. Their technical style of play tends to be more effective against teams that do not play a possession heavy style of hockey, allowing them to commit more players into the midfield and look for openings in their opponents' circle. Many of the teams they will face at the Nations Cup, especially in the pool stage, rely heavily on counter attacking styles, allowing Japan to control the tempo of the game, which will suit their style.

**One to watch:** :Yuri Nagai

Yuri Nagai has spent over a decade at the top of the game, effectively leading the attacking line for Japan since 2010. She also wears the captain's armband now as the most capped player in Japan's current squad. Her role at the Nations Cup in leading a young team off the field will be almost as important as her attacking role on field. The Japanese squad for the tournament features 5 debutants and 10 players aged 25 or younger, and it will be up to captain Nagai to inspire them on one of the biggest stages of international hockey.

Website

[www.hockey.or.jp](http://www.hockey.or.jp)

Twitter

[japan\\_hockey](https://twitter.com/japan_hockey)

Instagram

[japan.hockey](https://www.instagram.com/japan.hockey)

FIH Nations Cup team page

[click here](#)



# SOUTH AFRICA

**Current World Ranking:** 20

**About the team:** South Africa are the continental powerhouse in Africa, but their dominance in continental competitions has not translated to the world stage so far. South Africa have been gold medallists at every African Cup of Nations since its inception in 1994. South Africa have also qualified for the Olympic Games on 5 occasions, but their best finish ever has been in the 9th place at the Olympic Games Athens 2004.

South Africa qualified for the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022 after winning the African Cup of Nations for the 7th straight time in 2022. Their World Cup campaign failed to truly lift off, even though they produced one of the best moments of the event when they staged an epic comeback in the second half to tie the game after going 3-0 down in the first half of their group stage match against Japan. South Africa finished in the 15th position at the World Cup, which was a second consecutive 15th place finish at the World Cups.

South Africa showed improved form during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, and finished in the 7th position, but they have a squad that is capable of even more.

The responsibility of captaining the South African team is shared between Phumelela Mbande and Bernadette Coston who are both exemplary leaders for the team. Mbande is among the best goalkeepers in the world and acts as a great safety net when the opponents get past the defence. Forward Lillian du Plessis and midfield general Quanita Bobbs have nearly 300 caps between them, and their experience will be crucial for South Africa in the attack, against the stringent defences they will face in the pool stage of the Nations Cup.

**One to watch:** Onthatile Zulu

Onthatile Zulu was the star of the show in South Africa's incredible comeback against Japan at the World Cup. As South Africa went down by 3 goals, it seemed like they broke the shackles and went all out in attack. The switch in tactics had the biggest impact on Zulu whose natural pace on the wing left opposition defenders chasing shadows as she sent in cross after cross, assisting 2 goals and winning a penalty corner that led to the third.

At just 22 years of age Zulu has massive potential to develop into one of the best wing players in hockey. This holds true for many of the young talents in the South African team, and if their abilities can be maximised by the team, South Africa can become a major threat to anyone that comes up against them.

Website

[www.sahockey.co.za](http://www.sahockey.co.za)

Twitter

[SA\\_Hockey](https://twitter.com/SA_Hockey)

Instagram

[sahockey\\_](https://www.instagram.com/sahockey_)

FIH Nations Cup team page  
[click here](#)





# WHERE TO WATCH - HOW TO SUPPORT

Please help us raise awareness and attractiveness of this new event among fans, media, broadcasters, commercial partners and all our hockey stakeholders.

## EVENT WEBSITE

[nationscup.hockey](https://nationscup.hockey)

## BROADCAST AND LIVE STREAMING

We are pleased to confirm that ALL matches of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2022 will be available live via the [Watch.Hockey](#) app, anywhere in the world.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

The FIH will provide comprehensive coverage of the event via our social media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). We encourage the hockey community to help promote this event on the respective digital channels. Do not hesitate to share, comment and repost.

## HASHTAG

**#FIHNationsCup**

## BRANDING AND COMMUNICATION

You can request the logo and any other graphic to [media@fih.hockey](mailto:media@fih.hockey)